Petitions in High Courts

5658. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN :
SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN :
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of petitions filed by the serving and retired defence personnel in High Courts during the last five years and the number of petitions out of them lying pending;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to set up a tribunal to redress the grievances of the defence personnel who are not satisfied with the decision given under the service rule and institutional as well in house remedy system; and

(c) if so, by when the tribunal is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(b) and (c) The Government has approved, in principle, setting up of an Armed Forces Administrative and Court Martial Tribunal in respect of armed forces personnel. No time frame has been set up by the Government to set up the Tribunal.

[Translation]

Monosodium Glutamate

5659. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that chemicals like Monosodium Glutamate are being used by the companies manufacturing eatables and fast food in the country which is not safe and proper from health point of view; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to deal with this problem ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955, permit use of Monosodium Glutamate in food provided the total Glutamate content of the ready-do-serve food does not exceed 1 percent. Its use in food meant for infant below twelve months is not permitted. Food packets have to indicate the presence of monosodium Glutamate on the lebel. Use of Monosodium Glutamate upto the prescribed limit is considered to be safe.

Single Rural Development Scheme

5660. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a Single Rural Development Scheme by integrating the schemes of rural development so that Government funds may not be misutilised and it may be properly monitored; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) there is no such proposal under consideration with the Ministry to formulate a single rural development scheme at present.

However, there exists a comprehensive system of monitoring of all the schemes being implemented by the Centre in addiition to the necessary safeguards that have been provided in the schemes to prevent misutilisation of funds. Further, cases of misutilisation of funds are appropriately dealt when brough to the notice of the Centre.

[English]

Mid-Day Meal Scheme

5661. SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government run schools located in inacessible remote and hilly areas in particular are finding difficulty in implementing mid-day meal scheme in the absence of any provision of money for transporting the grain from the stores;

(b) whether no money is paid to the cooks and the job is to be carried out by the teachers and they have to spend more time on cooking, arranging utensils instead of teaching;

(c) whether this exercise is affecting the education of children; and

(d) if so, the steps the Government propose to take in the matter to safeguard the interests of the children and teachers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) According to the guidelines for central assistance under National Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education, popularly known as Mid-day Meal Scheme, the Central Government reimburses transportation costs for moving the foodgrains from FCI godowns to the schools/villages @ Rs. 25/- per quintal as applicable under the Revamped Public Distributtion System (RPDS). It has further been decided